



State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509

Hartford, CT 06106

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Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan, distinguished members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Subira Gordon and I am the legislative analyst for the African American Affairs Commission and I am testifying in favor of 5457 AAC the Collection Of data by Health and Human Services Agencies.

First I would like to thank you for raising this bill and giving it a public hearing, because I believe that data collection and analysis, is integral in creating good public policy. This bill requires a standardized method of data collection from state agencies that provide services relating to health and human services. This data will assist policy makers in making evidence based decisions with respect to health disparities.

Connecticut, like many other states has racial and ethnic health disparities. The affordable care act has attempted to address some of these issues and a standardized data collection method will help to eliminate these disparities. African American infants born in Connecticut are three times more likely to die than white infants. African American residents are 1.4 times more likely to die from a stroke than White residents, African Americans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with and die from diabetes than Whites and African American children are almost 5 times more likely to visit an emergency room for asthma than White children. The statistics for Hispanics

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To improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut

are equally as alarming. As with many other issues in the state, segregation and concentration of minorities in certain geographic areas helps to perpetuate this cycle of unequal health care treatment. A recent article in the Hartford courier from March 3rd 2014 stated that “hypertension rates among women in all 8 Connecticut counties increased from 2001 to 2009 with disparities widening for African American women compared to Whites” The article points out that a mix of genetic, socioeconomic and cultural factors contribute to the high increase in rates for African American women. This is a problem that exists across all economic spectrums for African American women.

The AAAC supports this bill and any other initiatives that try to eliminate ethnic and racial health disparities in the state.

Thank you for your time

Subira Gordon
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